

Remarks/Arguments:

The Office Action notes that claims 1-24 are pending in the Application. Claims 25-28, which were filed on July 2, 2001 in a Preliminary Amendment, were not received in the USPTO and, consequently, have not been examined by the Office.

In a telephone Interview conducted with the Examiner, on July 30, 2003, the Examiner requested that, in this Response to the outstanding Office Action, Applicants mention that claims 25-28 have not been examined by the Office. A copy of claims 25-28, as originally filed, has been faxed to the Examiner on July 30, 2003.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 6, 10, 14-16, 21 and 23-24 have been rejected as anticipated by Doi. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome for the reasons set forth below. Amended claim 1 now includes features which are not suggested by the cited reference, namely:

- an image acquiring unit acquiring an image of data, **by directly inputting the image displayed on a data display section of a measuring instrument;**

Amended claim 1 now recites that the image acquiring unit **directly acquires the image on the display of a measuring instrument**. In other words, the data displayed on the measuring instrument is **picked up directly by imaging the display**.

Because Applicants' invention, as recited in claim 1, acquires data from an instrument by **directly imaging the display**, the invention advantageously requires **no interface or I/O** for communications between the measuring instrument and the health monitoring terminal. It is possible to reduce the amount of hardware and provide a low cost electronic health monitoring terminal. As discussed in the specification, for example, at page 14, lines 1-19, **no communication interface is required on the measuring instrument side**. "For this reason, measuring instruments, sold as general purpose products, can be applied as the measuring instruments for this data input apparatus. Furthermore, the user can input the

measuring instrument data by simply letting the image input section capture the measuring instruments as image data", thus implementing an extremely precise and simple system.

Doi discloses a data input apparatus that includes, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6, measuring instrument 1, interface unit 2, and another interface unit 3. The measuring instrument requires to be **electrically connected** into a terminal of interface unit 2. Since interface unit 2, as shown in Fig. 4, requires electrical contact with the measuring instrument, interface unit 2 must include an electrical interface, or I/O to convert the data provided by the measuring instrument before transmitting the data to terminal device 3. Terminal device 3 is able to display a graph of the stored health data and perform data communication to main terminal 5 by communication through network 4 (FIG. 1). Doi, thus, requires that interface unit 2 and interface unit 3 include electrical interfaces, or I/Os that are adapted to capture the data of the measuring unit and then transmit the data to another main terminal.

Doi, however, does **not** disclose **acquiring an image of data, by directly inputting the image displayed on a data display section of a measuring instrument.** Moreover, the Office Action, at paragraph 4, admits that Doi is silent about image information.

Reconsideration is requested for amended claim 1. Although not the same, claim 14 has now been amended to include features similar to amended claim 1. Amended claim 14 is, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of Doi for the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1. Claims 6, 10, 15-16, 21 and 23-24 depend from either claim 1 or claim 14 and, therefore, are not subject to rejection over Doi for at least the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 2-4, 7-9 and 11-13 have been rejected as being obvious in view of Doi and further in view of Tamura. As claims 2-4, 7-9 and 11-13 depend from amended claim 1, these claims are not subject to rejection in view of Doi for at least the same reasons set forth above.

Tamura discloses a home health care system including a community antenna television CATV system that controls two-way communication between a doctor's terminal and a patient's terminal. As shown in Fig. 1, Tamura discloses camera 149 and camera 137 for allowing

images to be taken of a patient and the same images to be transmitted for viewing at a remote terminal at the doctor's office. In this manner, the doctor can check on the health of the patient. The doctor can also similarly be viewed at the patient's terminal.

Tamura does **not** disclose or suggest **acquiring an image of data by directly inputting the image displayed on a data display section of a measuring instrument**. Tamura also does **not** disclose **a number reader reading numbers in the acquired image**. Furthermore, as admitted by the Office Action, at page 6, paragraph 5, Tamura **fails to disclose "extracting an image."** Applicants further note that Tamura discloses monitoring elderly persons, who are bedridden (col. 5, lines 27-30). Furthermore, Tamura discloses, as noted at column 6, lines 10-15, that the doctor may examine and treat patients through communication, which includes images and voices of the patients without hindrance to normal broadcasting. It is respectfully submitted that Tamura is silent about acquiring an image of data **by directly inputting the image displayed on a data display**.

Favorable reconsideration is requested for dependent claims 2-4, 7-9 and 11-13.

Claim 5 which depends from claim 1, has been rejected as being obvious in view of Doi and Tamura, and further in view of Hishinuma.

Hishinuma discloses extracting an image of a structure contained in a radiation image by conducting a subtraction process among various digital data. Hishinuma, however, does **not** disclose the features of amended claim 1, namely **acquiring an image of data by directly inputting the image displayed on a data display section of the measuring instrument**. Furthermore, Hishinuma does **not** disclose reading numbers in the acquired image, and displaying the read numbers. Favorable reconsideration is requested for dependent claim 5.

Unexamined Claims 25-28

Claim 25 includes the following features:

- (a) identifying each respective measuring device;

- (b) **capturing a display of the measuring device** identified in step (a) as an image **to extract a parameter value displayed on the display**; and
- (c) inputting the parameter value extracted in step (b) to a data collection terminal.

None of the cited references disclose capturing a display of the measuring device which has been identified as an image **to extract a parameter value displayed on the display**. Furthermore, none of the cited references disclose inputting the parameter value extracted from the **display of the measuring device** to a data collection terminal.

Claim 26 further limits claim 25 by reciting that identifying the measuring device includes **forming a marker on the display and identifying the measuring device by scanning the marker**. None of the cited references disclose or suggest **forming a marker on the display of the measuring device** and identifying the measuring device by scanning the marker.

Favorable consideration is requested for claims 25 and 26. Although not the same, claims 27 and 28 include features similar, respectively, to claims 25 and 26. Favorable consideration is requested for claims 27 and 28.

Newly Added Claims 29-33

Newly added claim 29 further limits claim 25 by reciting that identifying the measuring device includes **forming at least two markers on the display** and (i) **scanning the markers to identify the measuring device** and (ii) **scanning the markers to identify the parameter value between the two markers**. These features are not disclosed or suggested by any of the cited references.

Newly added claim 30 further limits claim 27, in a manner similar to claim 29. Favorable consideration is requested for claim 29.

Newly added claim 31 includes the features of original claim 1 and features similar to newly added claim 29. Newly added claim 32 includes features of original claim 14 and

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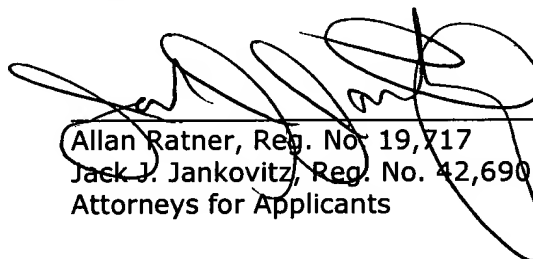
features similar to newly added claim 29. These claims are not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for at least the same reasons set forth for claim 29.

Newly added claim 33 further limits claim 1 by reciting that the image acquiring means **directly acquires the image on the data display section, free-of any other communication or electrical interface**. These features are not suggested by any of the cited references.

Conclusion

Claims 1-24 are in condition for allowance. Claims 25-33 are also in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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October 8, 2003
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